

NOTES ON *EUSTERA TROGOPHYLLA* (HAMPSON)

The genus *Eustera* consists of a group of small Lepidoptera of the family Saturniidae, that are found only in Africa. One of their main characters is that their tails are exceptionally long, but they should not be confused with other long tailed genera of the same family. Some males of *Eustera* possess posterior wings which reach a length of 135 mm., the tail alone measuring 115 mm., whereas the overall width would only be 55 mm. The average length of the tail of *Eustera* is, in proportion, about twice the one of spectacular species belonging to other genera (for instance *Argema mittrei* ♂); and since the width of the tail may sometimes be only 1 mm., one realizes how difficult it is to obtain good specimens of *Eustera*, and how delicate they are to handle.

This study was made by Dr. Claude Lemaire at his breeding station in Janville-sur-Juine par Lardy (Seine & Oise), France, from caterpillars collected in French Equatorial Africa by Mr. Rougeot. When Mr. Rougeot discovered some caterpillars of *Eustera trogophylla* in the Gabon equatorial forest, there were very few specimens known of that species and they were considered as extremely rare. Mr. Rougeot had stayed for over ten years in various parts of the Gabon territory, without ever noticing any insect of this species. And, of course, the life cycle of the insect was completely unknown.

Out of 24 pupae handled in France by Dr. Claude Lemaire in his breeding place, he has succeeded in getting 20 imagoes, four of the total having been the victims of parasites. 19 of the specimens thus obtained are in good state. Of these 13 are male and 7 female. Only one (a male) is not in perfect state, there being a malformation on an anterior wing. Eclosions, which lasted about 22 hours, took place from April to July, with a maximum on June 21st. The temperature was between 22 and 26 degrees centigrade, with considerable moisture prevailing.

The caterpillar of another species, *Eustera argiphontes*, collected by Mr. Rougeot at the same time as the ones of the previously mentioned species, has given a magnificent male; this was achieved by Dr. Claude Lemaire on August 26, 1959. It seems the two species of *Eustera* coexist and feed on the same plants. —LUCIEN L. POHL, CORRESPONDING MEMBER, FRENCH NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.